

ON THE TRAINS

FOR FIFTEEN YEARS HAS
PICKING UP THINGS.From the Notebook of Char-
lie, Who Forgets Portable Prop-
erties and the List of For-
gottens.

during the daytime a New
Haven and Hartford train
Grand Central depot a stoop
little man, with keen gray
beard that doesn't grow with
exposure to require frequent
travels down to the end of the
When the train stops and
most laggard of the passengers
nimbly alighting, he hops nim-
bly rear platform of the last car
to literally "go through."
Sometimes a much excited
who has suddenly recollected
forgotten something rushes
into the train and discovers
the property in the hands of the
Then, if he is of a suspicious
he glares and scowls at the
and sometimes pounces upon
adignantly demands to be told
doing with "that."
sired look comes into the little
and he mildly explains that
toyed by the company to search
trains for articles left behind
gers, which he conveys to the
erty room, where the owners
get possession of them again
thing presumptive evidence that
s belong to them.

Charlie—that is what the other
s about the depot call him, al-
has another name which ap-
the payrolls of the company—
an this work, his beard wasn't
with gray, and he wasn't a bit
older. That was 15 years
these years, from 6:30 in the
until 6:30 at night each day, he
picking up things that careless
ers have forgotten to take with
en they left the train.

ould make any man stoop shoul-
to be continually looking for
at long. But his eyes are as
ver, and his honesty is still proof
all temptations. If that were
case, he could have retired with
little capital. From the pocket
and purses and "wads" that he
and while pursuing his unique oc-
n he could have slipped enough
own pocket to render him quite
ident.

s are no blanks in his daily rec-
Never a day goes by that he
find something that somebody
gotten. He picks up fewer things
days than on any other days, be-
on Sundays travel is comparative-
and passengers are apt to be
occupied with business cares and
re not so likely to forget things.

one day his list of articles found
incoming trains is quite a for-
mone.

for instance, is what he turned
the lost property room on Aug. 17:
ten umbrellas, two rings (one plain
and one with diamonds), one over-
one package of legal papers, one
el, one lady's jacket, one Derby
valise, one cape, one cane, one
age of underwear, one mackintosh
he pocketbook.

this is what he found on Aug. 27:
umbrellas, one parasol, one shawl,
percoat, one pair of shoes, one pack-
containing a suit of clothes, one pair
spectacles, one purse, one flask of
y and one smelling bottle.

on the articles are taken to the lost
ty room, they are labeled with the
n which they are found and the
r of the train. Nearly all the ar-
that have any intrinsic value are
ed. The rest are simply stored
for the gnawing tooth of time to
pon.

lie is of the opinion, and surely
be regarded as an expert on the
e, that everybody is liable to for-
something at some time or other.
llas are the articles that are most
ly left behind on the trains by
rs. The man who could devise
allible system by which the owner
umbrella would always be sure to
ber it would reap a fortune.

has tried his own wits at it, but
need to give it up.

as come to the conclusion that a
of ecstatic happiness, equally with
intense preoccupation, is apt to
be forgetfulness of portable prop-
He has discovered that newly
brides and grooms are quite as
forget the little things they may
rying with them as the man who
t so much business on his hands
t think of anything else. The
ho never travels without a flask
sky seldom forgets it. Perhaps
because the act of putting it into
cket immediately after taking a
s been so often repeated that it
s to the category of unconscious
ation.

not an infrequent thing for a man
a stovepipe hat on the rack and
out of the car with a little skull
n. But when he gets into the
the small boys are sure to shout,
"the hat!" or "Where did you get
it?" Then he discovers the mis-
ad he has made, but the fact that
ever grateful to the small boys
inding him of it and never re-
them must be regarded as evi-
of that perversity inherent in
nature which so often puzzles
sopher.

le is of the opinion that some
would forget their own mothers-
if they had half a chance. There
man whose umbrella he has picked
the train so often that he has lost
of the number of times. And yet
me man has told him frequently
never leaves the house without his
lla that his wife doesn't say to
Now, dear, be sure you don't for-
your umbrella."

en, so Charlie has found, are
apt to leave things behind
the cars than men.—New York

THE COLORS OF THE EARTH.

How They Affect the Light That Our
Planet Gives to the Moon.

The wonderful difference between the
same landscape in winter and in summer
is a phenomenon familiar to all dwellers
in the temperate zones. The two great
elements of change are the presence of
snow in winter and of leaves and grass
in summer. If we could look at our
globe from the moon, the variation in
its aspect due to seasonal changes would
perhaps be even more striking than it
appears to those upon its surface.

In fact, we sometimes lose sight of the
very important part which vegetation
plays in giving color to what might be
called the countenance of the planet.

It is not the highest forms of plants
that always produce the greatest effect
in this way. Some of the most striking
scenes upon the earth owe their charac-
teristic features to mosses and lichens.
The famous "crimson cliffs" of Green-
land, which extend for miles northward
from Cape York, derive their splendid
color from the growth of red lichen
which covers their faces.

The cliffs rise between 1,700 and 2,000
feet straight from the water's edge, and
being composed of gray granite their
aspect would be entirely different from
what it is but for the presence of the
lichen.

Coming to less magnificent, but not
less beautiful scenes, the rocky pass
called the Golden Gate in the Yellow-
stone National park owes its rich color
and its name to the yellow lichen cover-
ing its lofty walls, and the indescribable
hues of the great hot spring terraces
arise mainly from the presence of minute
plants flourishing in the water that over-
flows them.

Considered as a whole, the vegetation
of a planet may give it a characteristic
aspect as viewed from space. Many have
thought that the red color of Mars may
be due to the existence of red instead of
green vegetation there.

That its broad expanses of forest and
prairie land cause the earth to reflect a
considerable quantity of green light to
its neighbors is indicated by the fact
that at the time of the new moon a
greenish tint has been detected over-
spreading that part of the lunar surface
which is then illuminated only by light
from the earth.—Youth's Companion.

Basque Is a Lonely Tongue Still.

The question, Who are the Basques?
that mysterious people who give their
name to the bay of Biscay, is always
cropping up, and Professor von der Ga-
belentz has recently endeavored to show
that the Basque language belongs to the
African Berber family of speech—for ex-
ample, the Kabyle and Targui. His evi-
dence, however, only amounts to a few
culture words being identical in the
Basque and Berber languages and cer-
tain analogies in the laws of phonetic
change. Moreover, he assumes that the
Basques and Iberians were the same peo-
ple.

But, as Canon Isaac Taylor points out,
the Iberian tongue, according to our
highest authorities, was different from
the Basque, and the French Basques are
a different race from the Spanish
Basques, who are a feeble people of the
Iberian type. If we assume that the
Basques conquered the Iberians, we can
account for the resemblances noticed by
Professor von der Gabelentz, because
the Iberians of Berber origin in acquiring
the language of their conquerors
would retain their own phonetic ten-
dency and also some culture words in
both languages. As Canon Taylor re-
marks, we may still believe that the
Basque language is allied to the Ural-
Altaic type.—London Globe.

The Danger of Matches.

We wonder how our ancestors man-
aged to get along at all before the in-
vention of matches; they are so indis-
pensably handy that we keep them in
every room in the house; the "men
folks" carry them in their pockets, leave
them hanging in their "other clothes"
in a dozen closets in all portions of the
house; we have a handful resting within
reach while we sleep, they are dropped
here and there as we attempt to handle
them; if it is light and we readily see
them, they are picked up, otherwise they
are left till a more convenient season—
which generally does not come, simply
because they are forgotten, being "only
a match"—we can get plenty more for
a halfpenny, and time is too valuable to be
wasted over so insignificant a trifle.

Yet this "insignificant trifle" possesses
the latent power to destroy the finest
mansion, and with it lives of sweetness
and beauty which the word can poorly
afford to spare. The cause of the con-
flagration may not always be revealed,
for the fire demon frequently covers or
destroys his tracks most effectually.
But how often is it apparent that only a
simple match—that insignificant trifle—
could have wrought the ruin!—Family
Doctor.

Found Her Daughter in Tights.

An indignant mother who saw her 10-
year-old daughter clad in gorgeous
tights practicing a somersault has noti-
fied the police of a peculiar state of
things. She says not only her daughter
but a number of other girls of that age
have been engaged to form a theatrical
combination. These damsels, it ap-
pears, meet for rehearsals in barns and
are under the instruction of a couple of
men. They intend to make a tour of
the small towns of the state. All wear
tights, it seems, and this one girl's mam-
ma was shocked at her daughter's ap-
pearance. The police are looking for
the men who are training the tender
maiden to feel at home in the skitlike
costume.—Reading (Pa.) Dispatch.

And Mephisto Smiled.

Some years ago, when Irving was play-
ing "Faust" at the Lyceum, in the part
of Mephistopheles, he descended through
a trapdoor in a cloud of flame. While
doing so the trap jammed for some reason,
and a voice from the "gods" im-
mediately called out: "Hurrah, boys!
Hell's full! There's no room for us!"
Mephisto was forced to smile.—San
Francisco Argonaut.

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